New Agriculture Policy

2657. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the experts from the International Rice Research Institute and Indian Farm Scientists have stressed the need for a new agriculture policy;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received representations about the bottlenecks in the existing agriculture policy;

(c) if so, the details thereof and

(d) the time by which the new agriculture policy is likely to be announced and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (d). There has been a general demand for formulation of new Agriculture Policy. A draft Agriculture Policy prepared by the Government was discussed in Parliament in August, 1995. The draft is under finalisation keeping in view the suggestions made by the Members of Parliament and the concerned Ministries/Departments.

Food Deficient States

2658. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the names of food deficient States;

(b) whether Kerala is also a Food Deficient State and statutory rationing was started in Kerala after assuring 100% distribution under the P.D.S. at fully subsidised rates;

(c) whether the Government has any scheme to protect food deficient States as agreed in the Food Ministers Conference and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Based on the standard nutritional norm of 167.9 kg requirement per capita per annum quantity of foodgrains production in 1993-94 was deficient for the population (1991 Census) in the following States. However, the position may change depending on variations in production of foodgrains and population.

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Bihar
3. Delhi
4. Goa
5. Gujarat
6. Kerala
7. Maharashtra
8. Meghalaya
9. Rajasthan
10. Tamil Nadu
11. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
12. Chandigarh
13. Dadra and Nagar Haveli
14. Daman and Diu
15. Lakshadweep
16. Pondicherry

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. However, statutory rationing in Kerala was introduced by Government of Kerala and the Central Government has no role in the scheme. The allocation of foodgrains from Central Pool to various States including Kerala is not based on population or any scale of distribution per capita per month. The responsibility of Central Government/FCI is limited to supply of foodgrains to States/UTs against monthly allocations and further distribution under PDS including fixing scales of ration is the sole responsibility of the State Government. The allocations of foodgrains for PDS are made on month to month basis keeping in view the relative demands/requirements of various States/UTs, the off-take trend, seasonal availability etc. at Central Issue Prices.

Prices of Liquid Milk

2659. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DARIYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NDDB has been held responsible for its policies responsible for ever rising prices of liquid milk, flooding of the market with synthetic milk and diversion of milk from a low margin to high margin product;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to assess its existing policies and propose to make any changes therein;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) the efforts proposed to be made by the Government to make available liquid milk even to the poorest class at a reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) Government have promulgated the Milk and Milk Product Order, 1992 for maintaining and increasing the supply of liquid milk of desired quality.